

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 0257Z 070458Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 SS-15 INR-10 PA-01 PM-05
/057 W

-----030180 070507Z /20

R 070426Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2898
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 2572

STADIS//////////

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR MORG KS AS
SUBJECT: ASSIGNMENT OF AUSTRALIAN OFFICER TO UNC REAR

REF: TOKYO 5348

1. EMBASSY VERY MUCH APPRECIATES REPORT (REFTEL) OF
BELIEF OF AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY MINISTER MCDONALD THAT
AUSTRALIAN FOREIGN MINISTER PEACOCK MAY NOT SUPPORT
AUSTRALIAN PARTICIPATION IN UNC REAR IN CABINET DISCUSSIONS.

2. AUSTRALIANS HERE HAVE BEEN REMARKABLY SENSITIVE ABOUT
THIS ISSUE, A REFLECTION, WE SUSPECT, OF SHARP DIFFERING
VIEWS WITHIN THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT ABOUT THE MERITS OF
CONTINUING WHAT SOME BELIEVE TO BE AN ANACHRONISM.

3. WE KNOW PEACOCK WELL ENOUGH TO BELIEVE HE MIGHT WELL
ADOPT THE VIEW THAT A MORE REALISTIC CONTEMPORARY STANCE
NO LONGER REQUIRES THE MAINTENANCE OF UNC REAR IN JAN,
AND THAT IT CAN BE DISPENSED WITH IN THE FULL KNOWLEDGE
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THAT SHOULD IT EVER BE NECESSARY TO REACTIVATE IT, SUCH
COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED WITH A MINIMUM OF FUSS, MUSS AND
BOTHR IF CIRCUMSTANCES SO DICTATED AT THE TIME.

4. THIS IS ONE WE ARE JUST GOING TO HAVE TO WAIT OUT.
ALSTON

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NNN

Message Attributes

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